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ONE Christmas time when old Mother Hubbard
She of the far famed empty cupboard—
Sat by her evening fire alone,
Wishing she had for her dog a bone,
There came a knocking upon the door;
And as she hastened across the floor
It flew wide open, to her surprise,
And, oh, the vision that met her eyes!

It nearly took away her breath
And frightened her almost half to death.



There were people here; there were people there;
There were people yonder and everywhere.
All were screaming, "Dear Mrs. Hubbard,
We've brought you something to fill your cupboard!"



First came lovely Cinderella,
With her prince, a handsome fellow;
Mother Goose and Simple Simon;
In their wake the Penny Pieman;



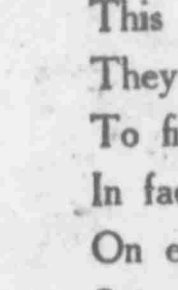
Bluebeard, savage and defiant;
Jack, who often killed a giant;
Puss in Boots, so trim and nice,
Followed by the three blind mice;



Then the little naughty kittens,
All in pretty scarlet mittens;
Sweet Bopeep and Little Boy Blue,
Red Riding Hood and the bad wolf, too;



Jack, whose bean stalk ran so high,
And the old woman who swept the sky;
Jack Horner, with his face aglow;
The frog who did a-wooning go;



Dame Trot and all his endless crew
That lived together in a shoe,
And many another known to fame
Had I but room to give his name.



This much to tell you will suffice—
They each and all brought something nice
To fill the cupboard o'er and o'er.
In fact, their gifts bestrewn the floor.
On every chair and table stood
Some article of daily food.

Each nook and corner held a dish
Of either fowl or flesh or fish
Till Mother Hubbard scarce could find
A resting place for foot or mind.
While doggie walked on his hind legs
For fear of breaking pies or eggs.
And, as for all the company,
They had to stand outside, you see.

Yet, as they had to leave quite soon
To see the cow jump o'er the moon,
It did not matter in the least.
But what about the sumptuous feast
Inside the cottage? Must I tell
The fearful ending that befell
The hungry dog who ate and ate
And brought about the cruel fate
It is my duty to relate?
For he, who lived upon a bone,
Died when with plenty left alone,
And ere the morning stars grew dim
He stiffened out in every limb.
So Mother Hubbard buried him.

This moral to the tale I give—
Live not to eat, but eat to live.

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